



Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

19 September 2005

National Ocean Service

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service

Last bulletin: September 19, 2005

Conditions: A harmful algal bloom has been identified from northern Pinellas to southern Collier County. Today through Thursday patchy very low to low impacts are possible in Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Lee and Collier Counties. A harmful algal bloom has also been identified in the Florida Panhandle from Bay County east to Levy County. Patchy very low impacts are possible in Bay, Gulf, Franklin, Dixie and Levy Counties today through Wednesday, with increased low impacts possible in Bay, Gulf and Franklin Counties on Thursday. Dead fish have been reported from Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach in Lee County, Cedar Key in Levy County and Crooked Island Sound in Franklin County over the past few days. Dead fish smell, while unpleasant, does not produce the same respiratory irritation as red tide.

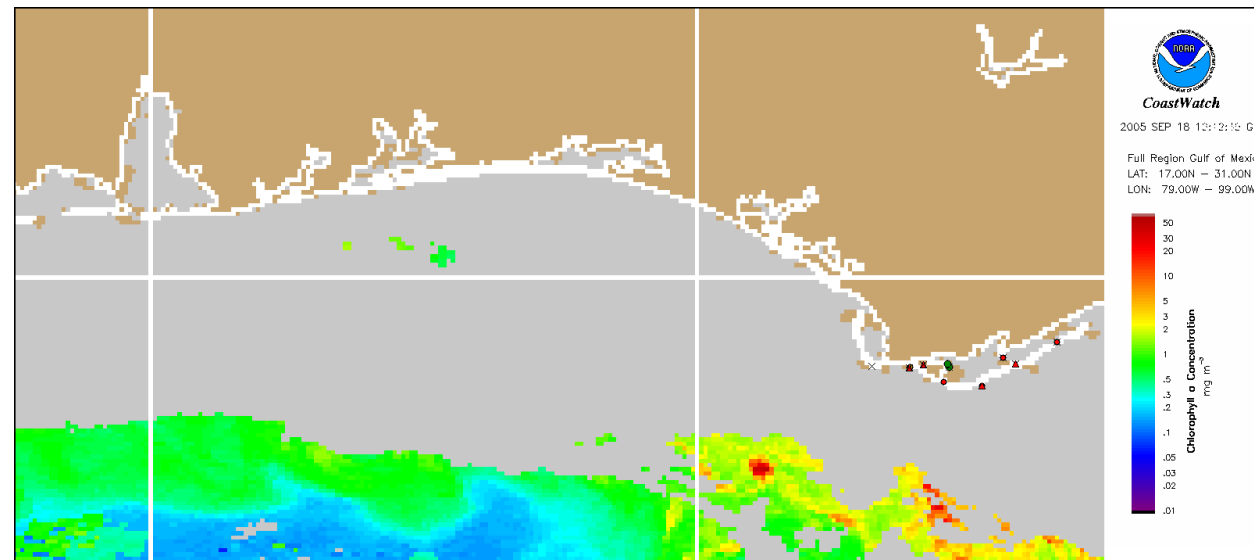
Analysis: A *K. brevis* bloom persists along the Florida panhandle, extending from Bay to Levy County. Satellite imagery is obscured by clouds throughout much of the bloom region; no present extents are available. Patches of high chlorophyll are continually visible between the clouds in the offshore Big Bend region. Results of a wind transport model indicate bloom expansion 11 to 18 km to the east of its previous location on September 15. No new samples have been received since September 14 when very low and low concentrations were reported in Bay, Gulf, Wakulla (very low only), Franklin, Dixie and Levy Counties by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). Continued sampling is recommended throughout the area, both alongshore and offshore, especially in the Big Bend region. Fish kills have been reported in Wakulla and Franklin Counties over the past few days. Northeasterly winds through Tuesday night will minimize impacts at the coast throughout the Panhandle; however bloom intensification is possible. Increased impacts may be reported Wednesday and Thursday in Bay,

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

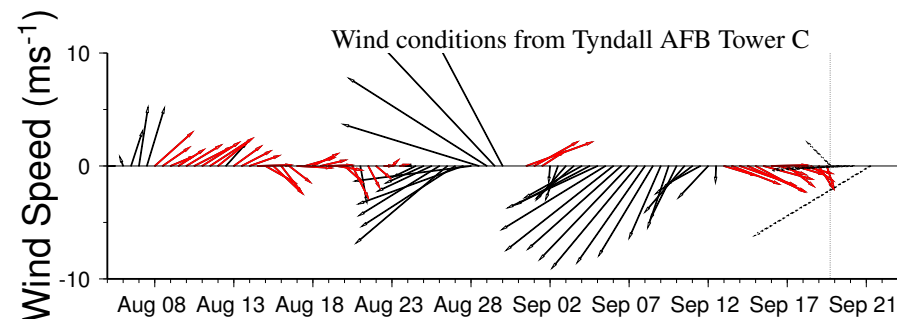
1. These data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Distribution for military, or commercial purposes is NOT permitted.
3. There are restrictions on Internet/Web/public posting of these data.
4. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive OrbImage approval via the CoastWatch Program.

Gulf, Franklin and Wakulla Counties. The bloom is likely to maintain its location onshore throughout the week.

~Fisher, Bronder

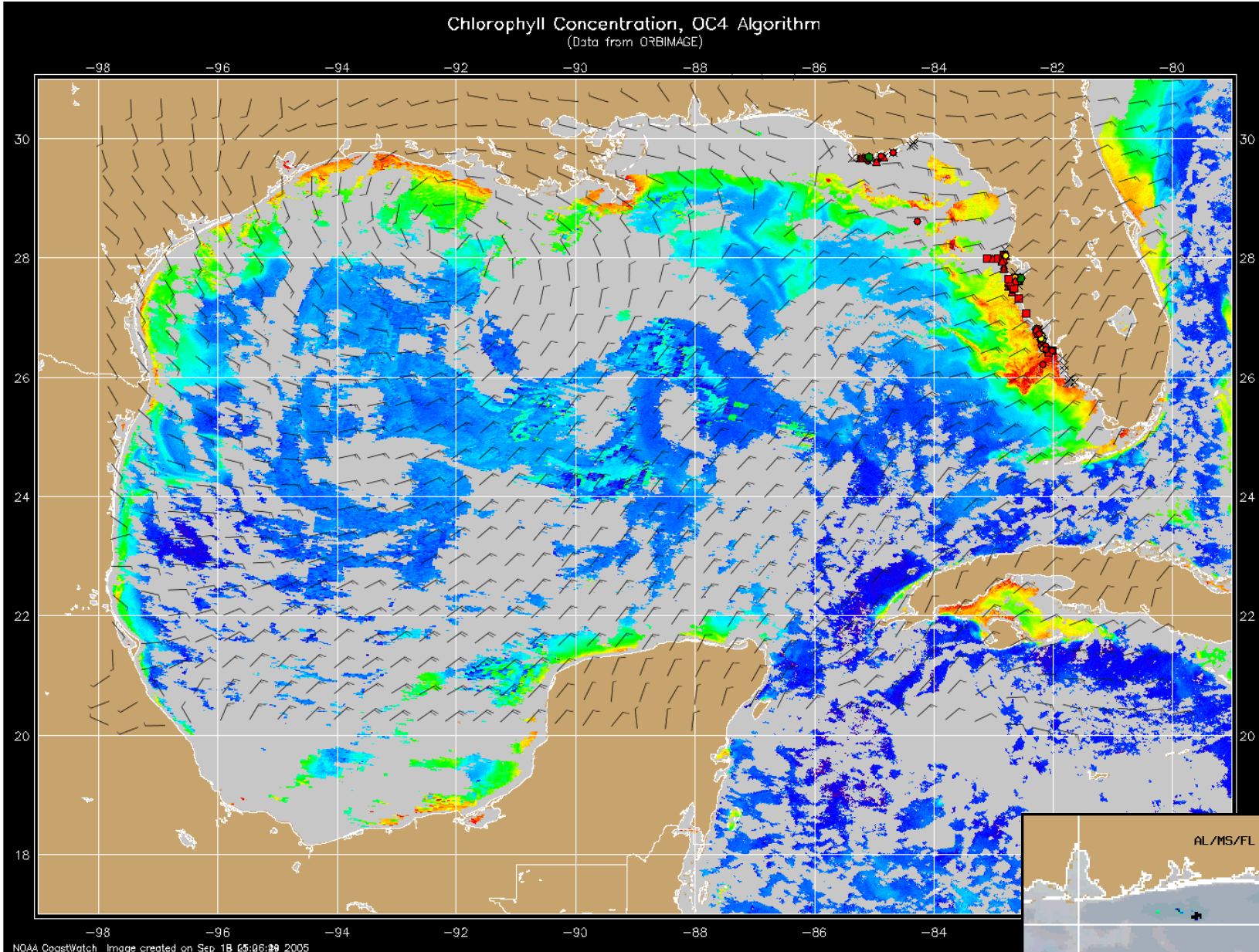


Chlorophyll concentration from satellite with HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

Florida Panhandle: Mild (5kts, 3m/s) northeasterly winds today, shifting easterly tonight, then returning to northeasterlies through Tuesday night and strengthening to 10-15 knots (5-8m/s). Easterly winds Wednesday 10-15 knots (5-8m/s). Southeasterlies expected Thursday.



Chlorophyll concentration from satellite and forecast winds for September 20, 2005 06Z with cell concentration sampling data from September 9, 2005 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Blooms shown in red (see p. 1 analysis)